



FEMA



Prepared by
Todd Beal

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Wednesday August 26, 2020

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a **Regional** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh.



NWSSouthern

www.weather.gov/srh

Summary of the Upcoming Week



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- **Hurricane Laura has rapidly intensified to a strong Category 2 hurricane with sustained winds of 110 mph.**
- **Laura will continue to strengthen today and is expected to make landfall as a major hurricane late tonight near the TX/LA border.**
- **Slight risk of severe thunderstorms with tornadoes across SE TX into LA.**
- **Moderate risk area for excessive rainfall/flash flooding across SE TX/LA.**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Aug 26, 2020 - Aug 30, 2020



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DAY / THREAT	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Severe Storms	LA	LA,AR	LA,AR OK Panhandle		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding	SETX/SW LA	W AR, NW LA, ETX	LA,AR		
	ETX/LA	E OK/TX/AR LA			
Fire Weather					
Tropical Winds / Surge	S LA/SE TX	LA, ETX (AM)			
		LA, ETX, S AR			
Heat					
River Flooding	SETX SW LA	SETX, S LA	SETX, LA	SETX, LA	

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

Tropical Weather Outlook – Atlantic/Gulf

See next slides for more information



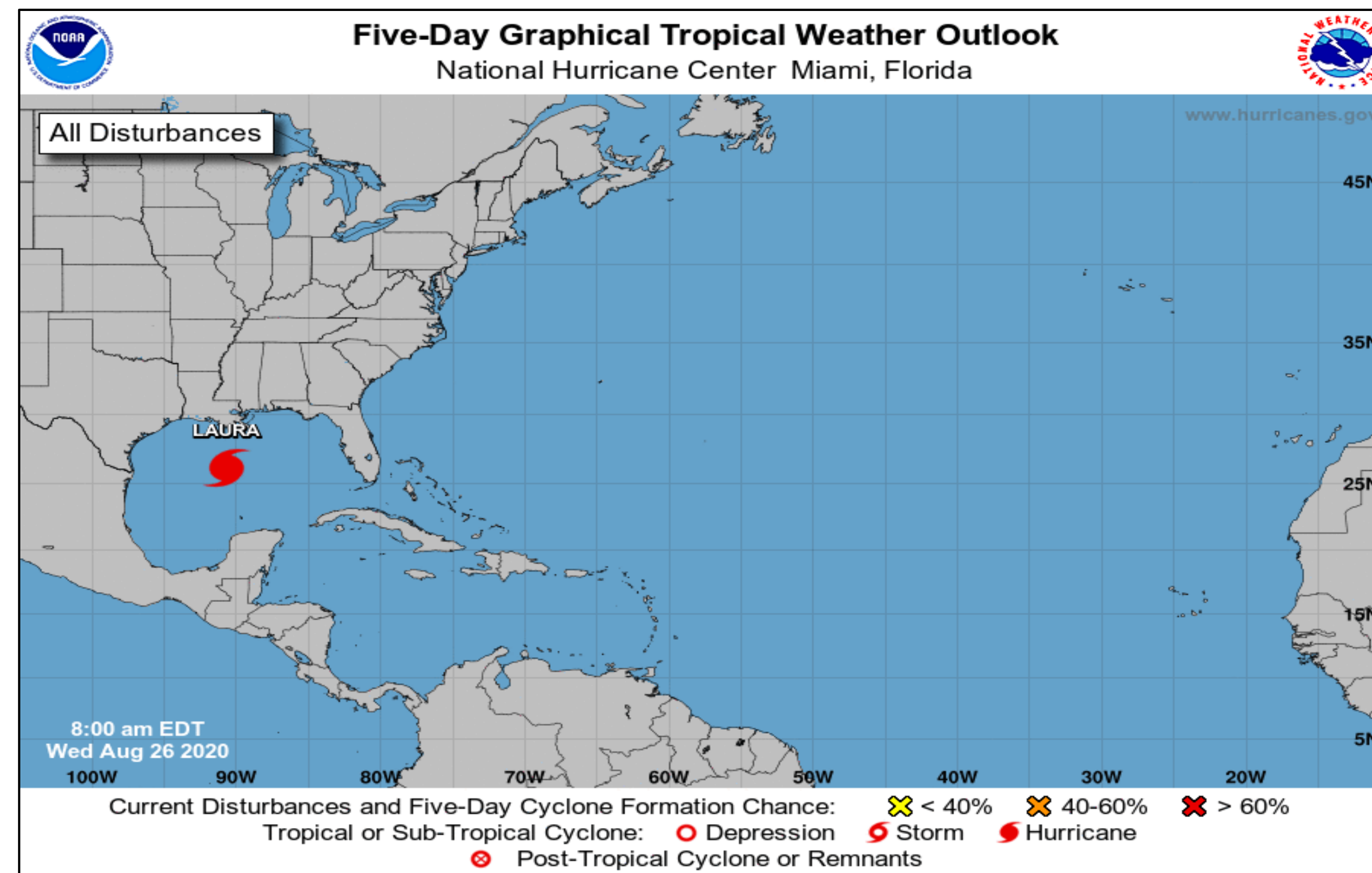
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Areas of Possible Development

Area	Chance of Development	Potential Impacts to FEMA 6

Active Tropical Cyclones

Storm	Potential Impacts to FEMA 6
Laura	Impacts from Laura in LA / TX begin today.



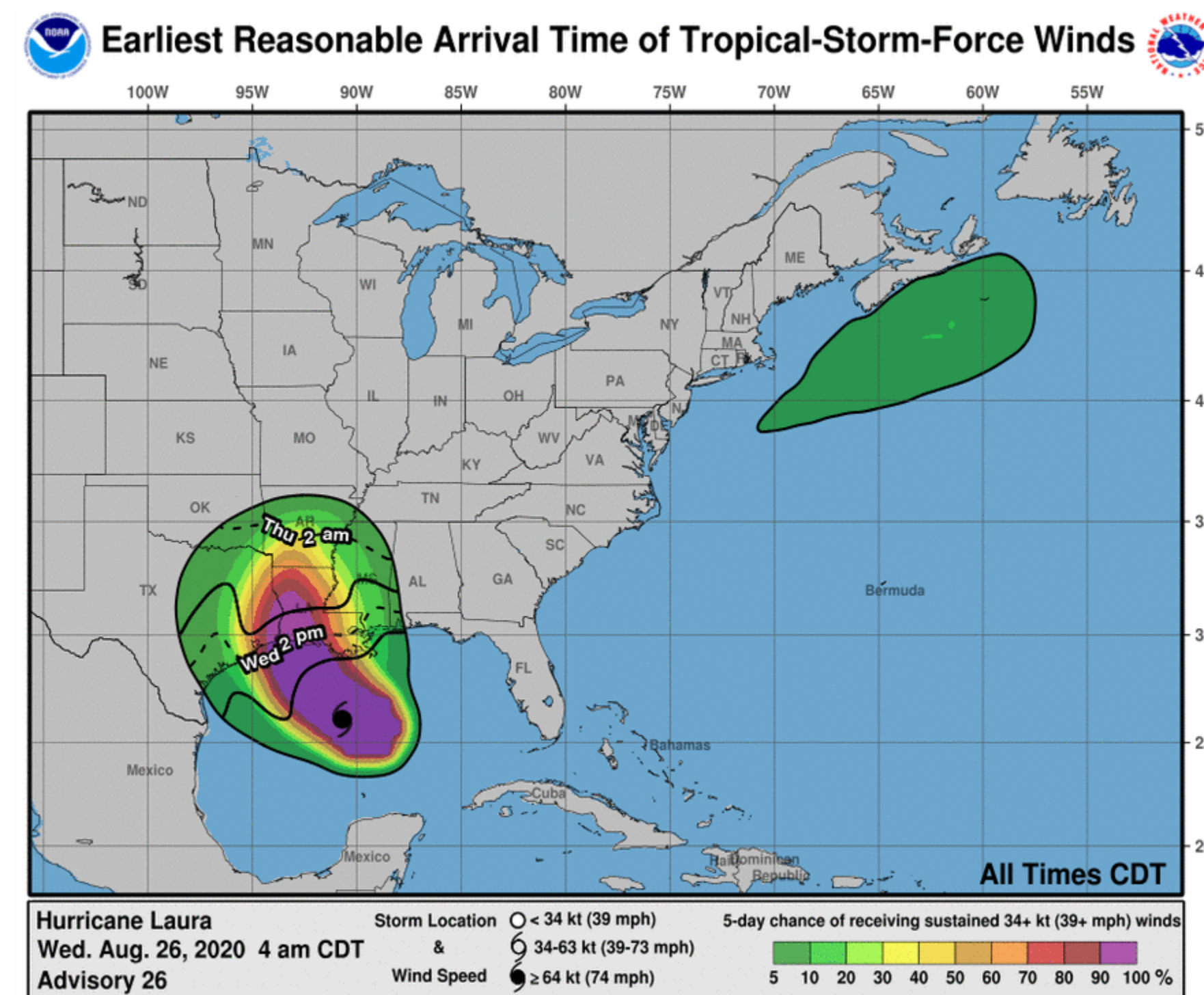
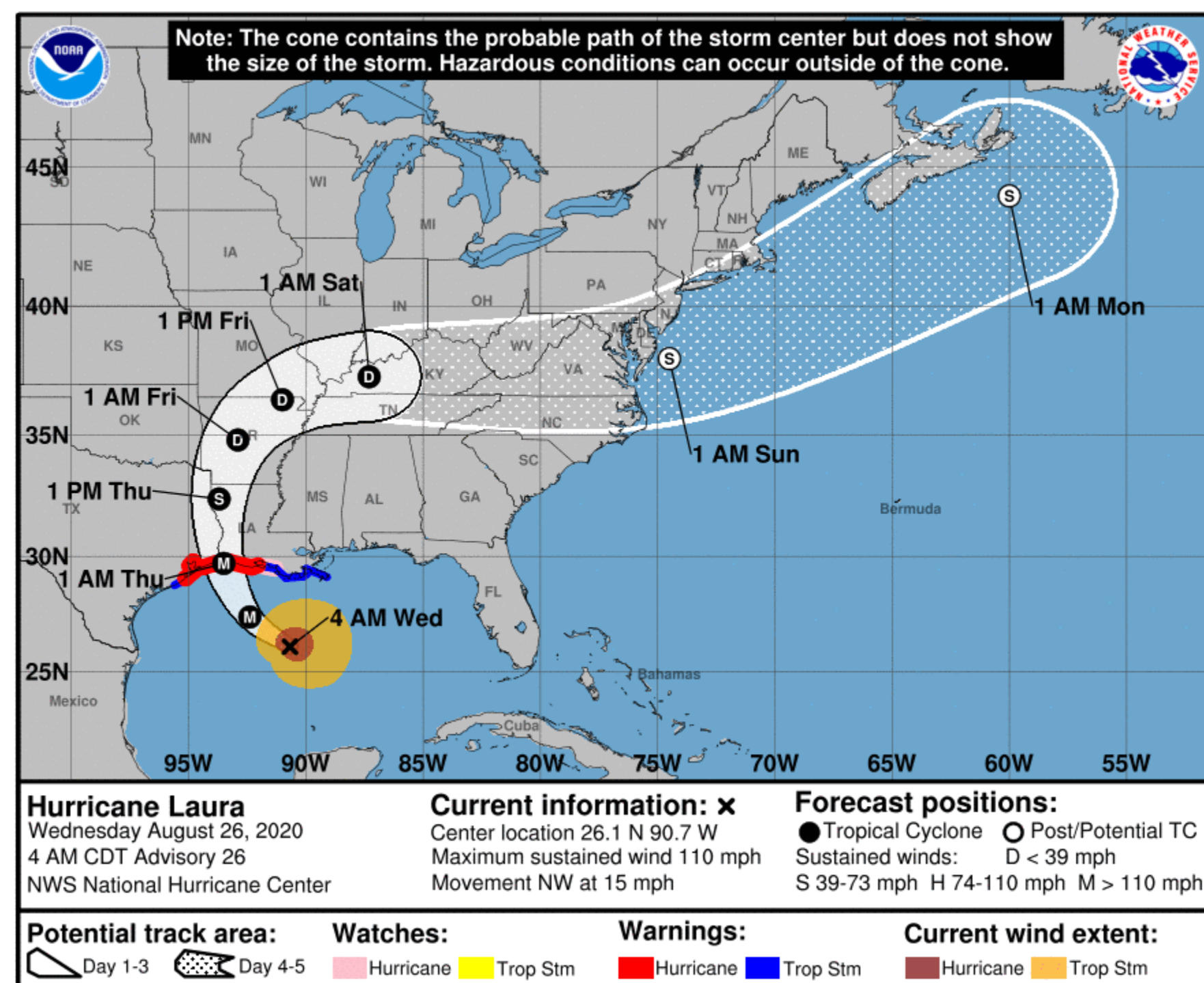
Hurricane Laura



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Hurricane Laura is 315 miles south southeast of Lake Charles, LA and moving northwest at 15 mph.

Maximum sustained winds are near 110 mph with higher gusts. Laura is expected to strengthen to a Category 4 hurricane today and remain a major hurricane through landfall late tonight near TX/LA border.



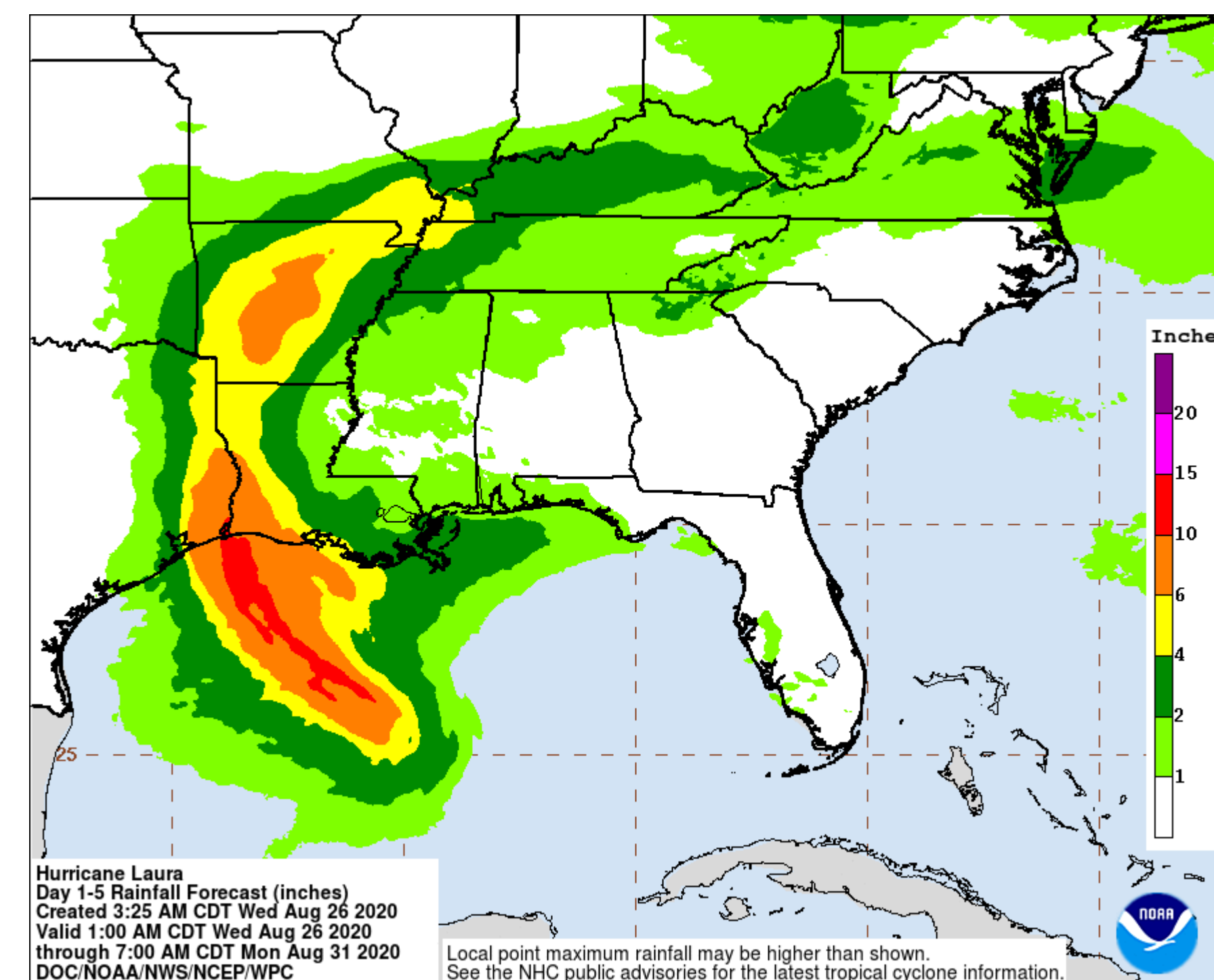
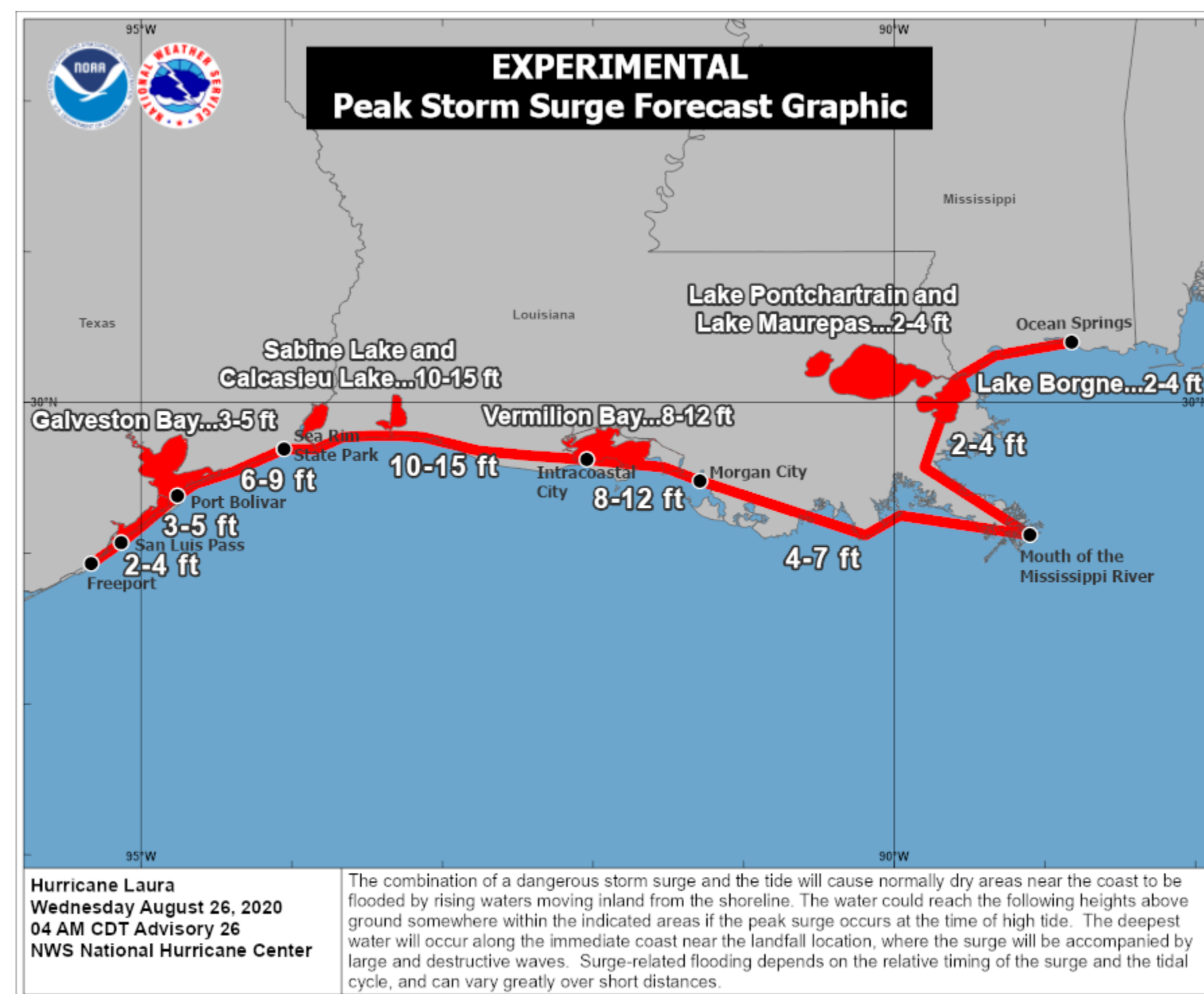
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5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status



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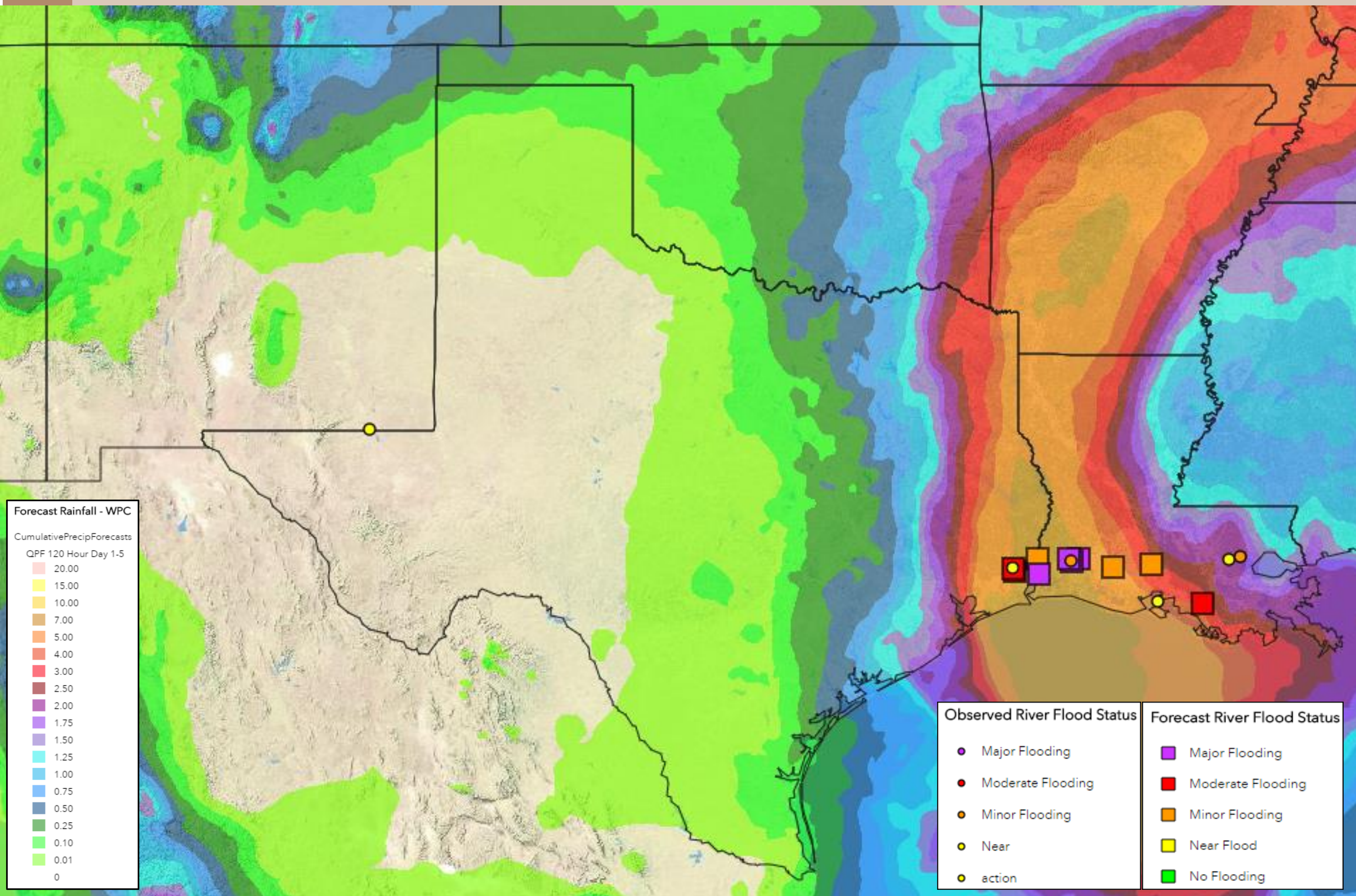
Note: Even though the image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1-2 days of rainfall

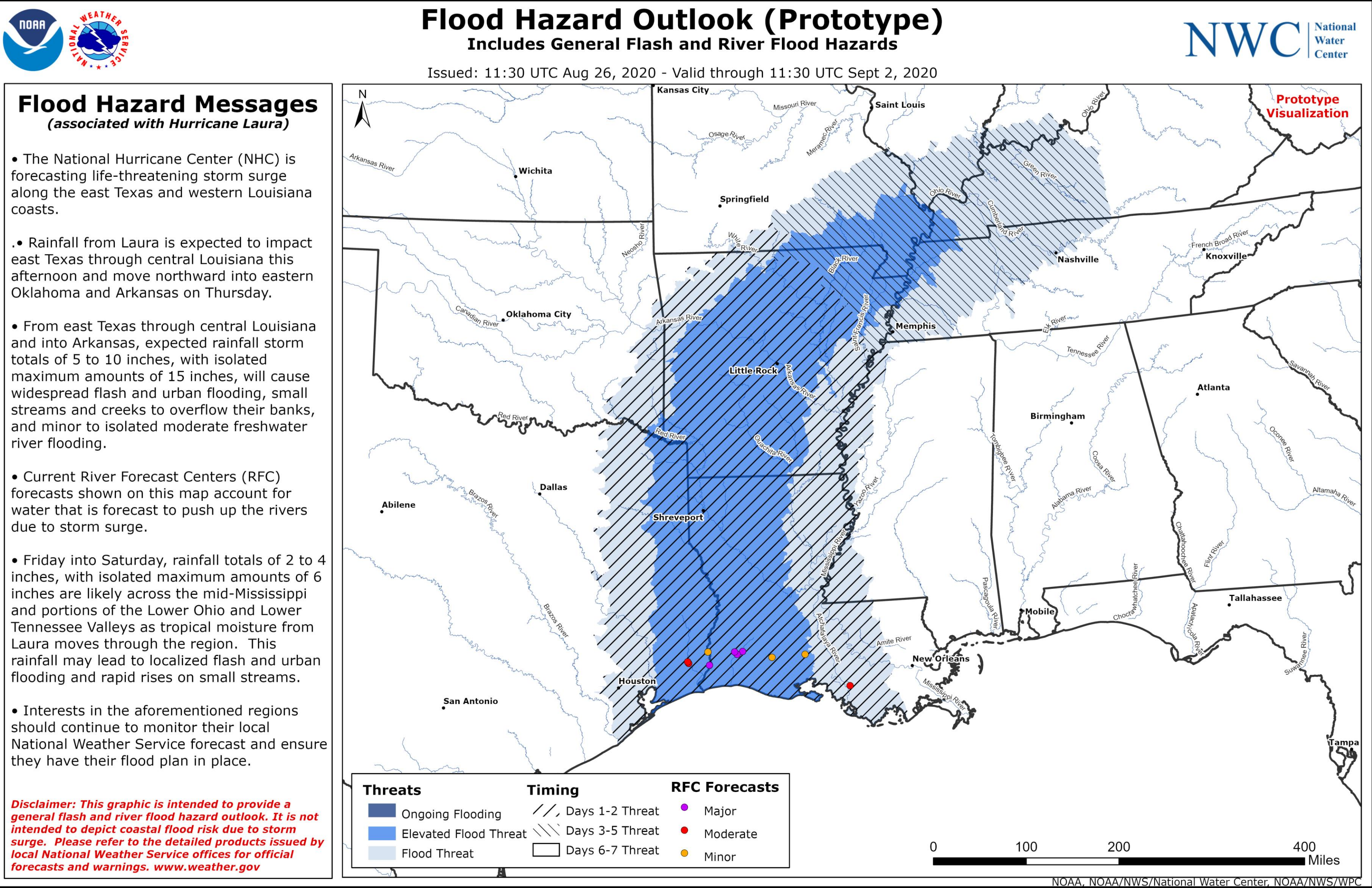
Tropical Storm Laura will bring widespread heavy rainfall to portions of E TX, LA, and AR today through Thursday.

Some locations near the coast forecast to reach major flood due to storm surge impacts.

Significant river flooding is possible in SE TX along lower Sabine River and portions of the Neches River.

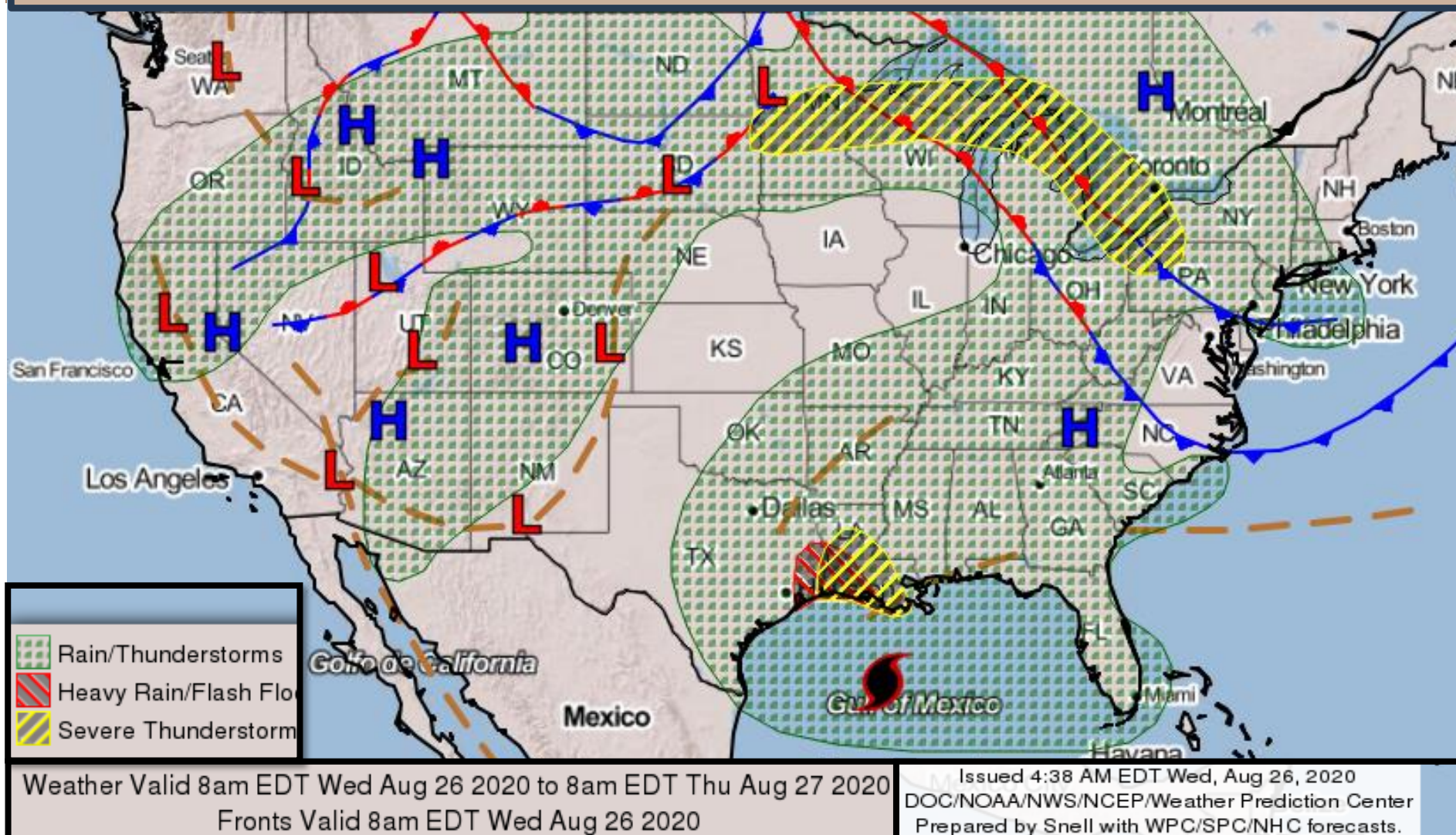
Minor to moderate river flooding possible across much of LA.



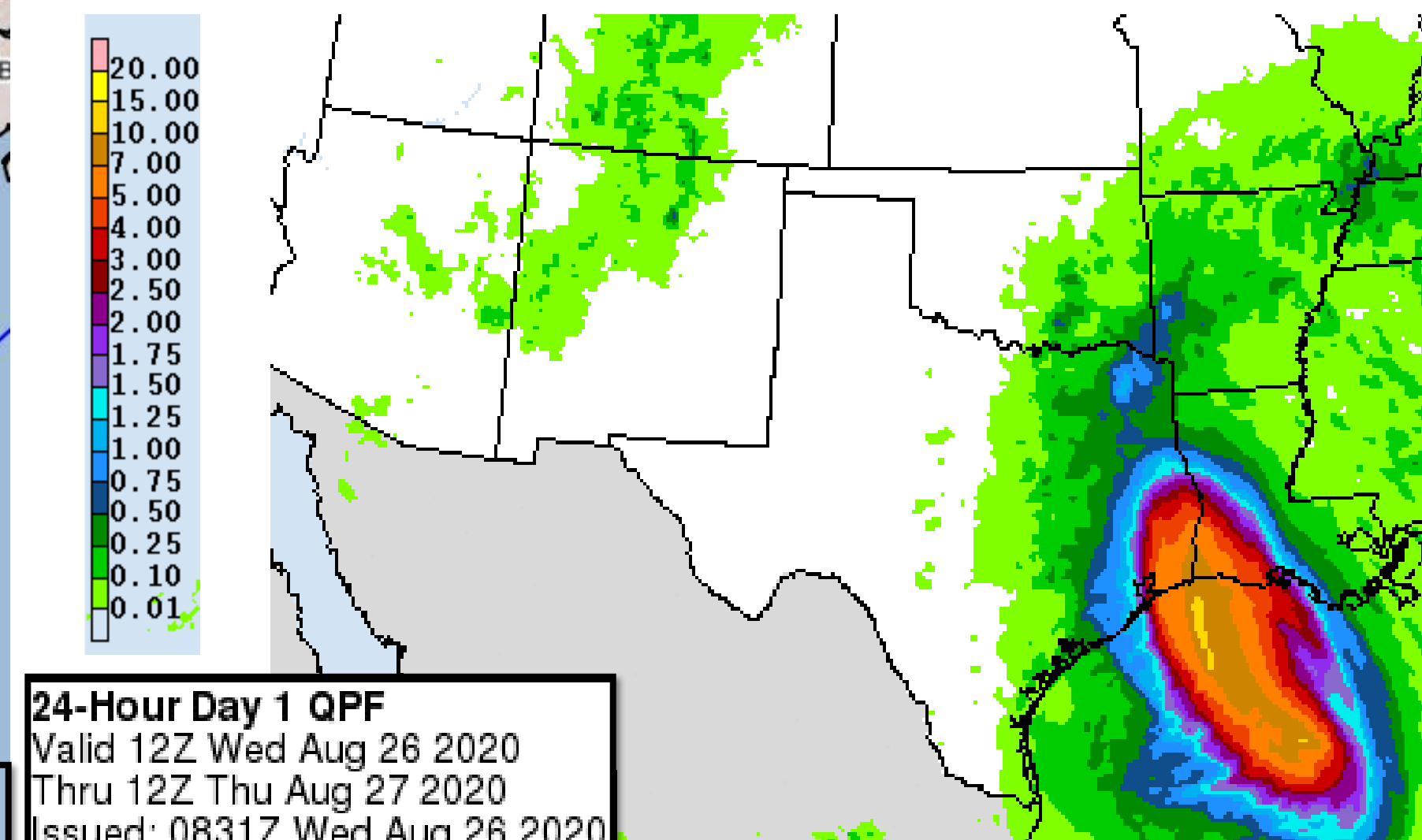


Today's Weather

Forecast Chart



Forecast Rainfall

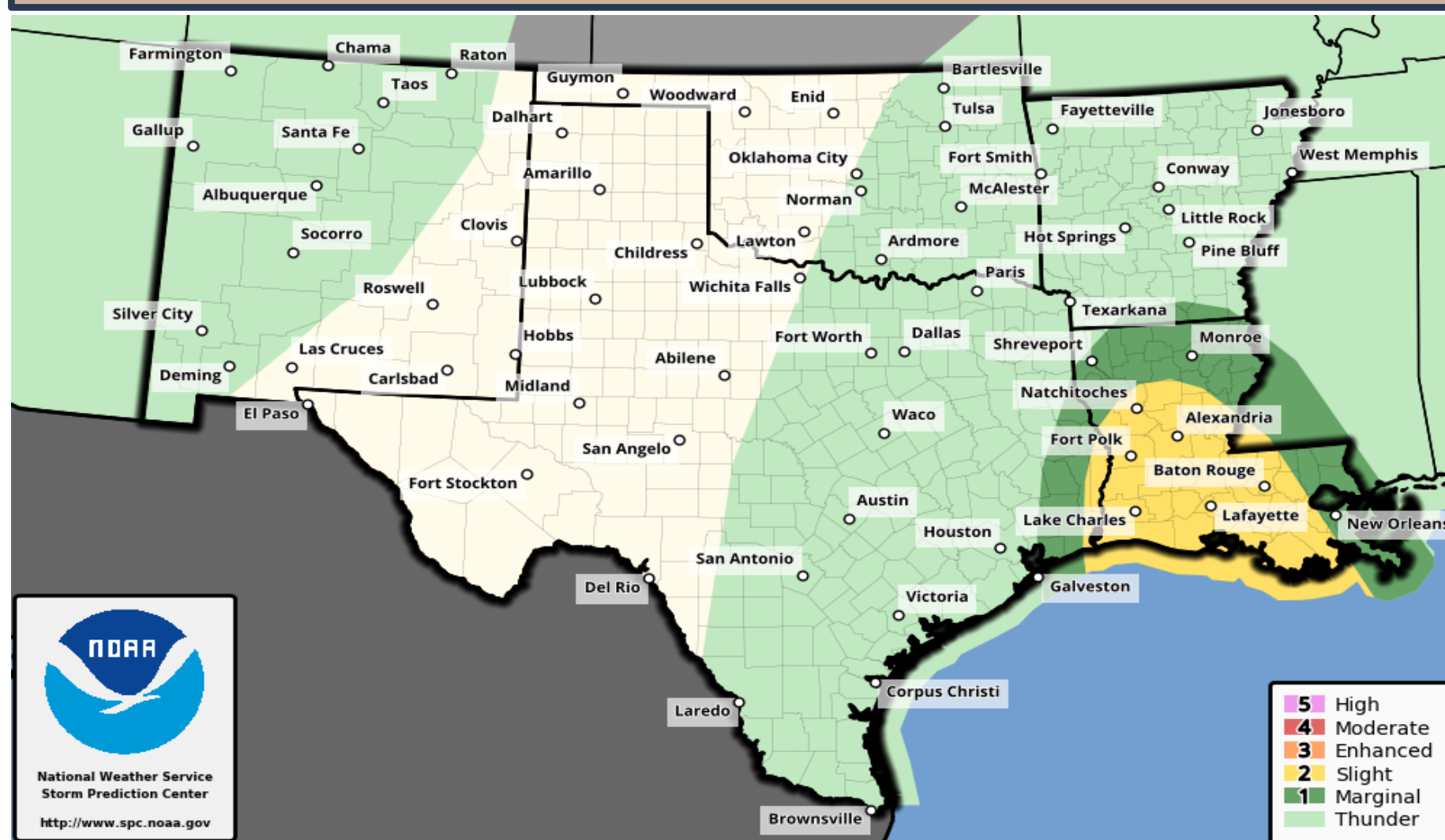


Hurricane impacts from Laura.

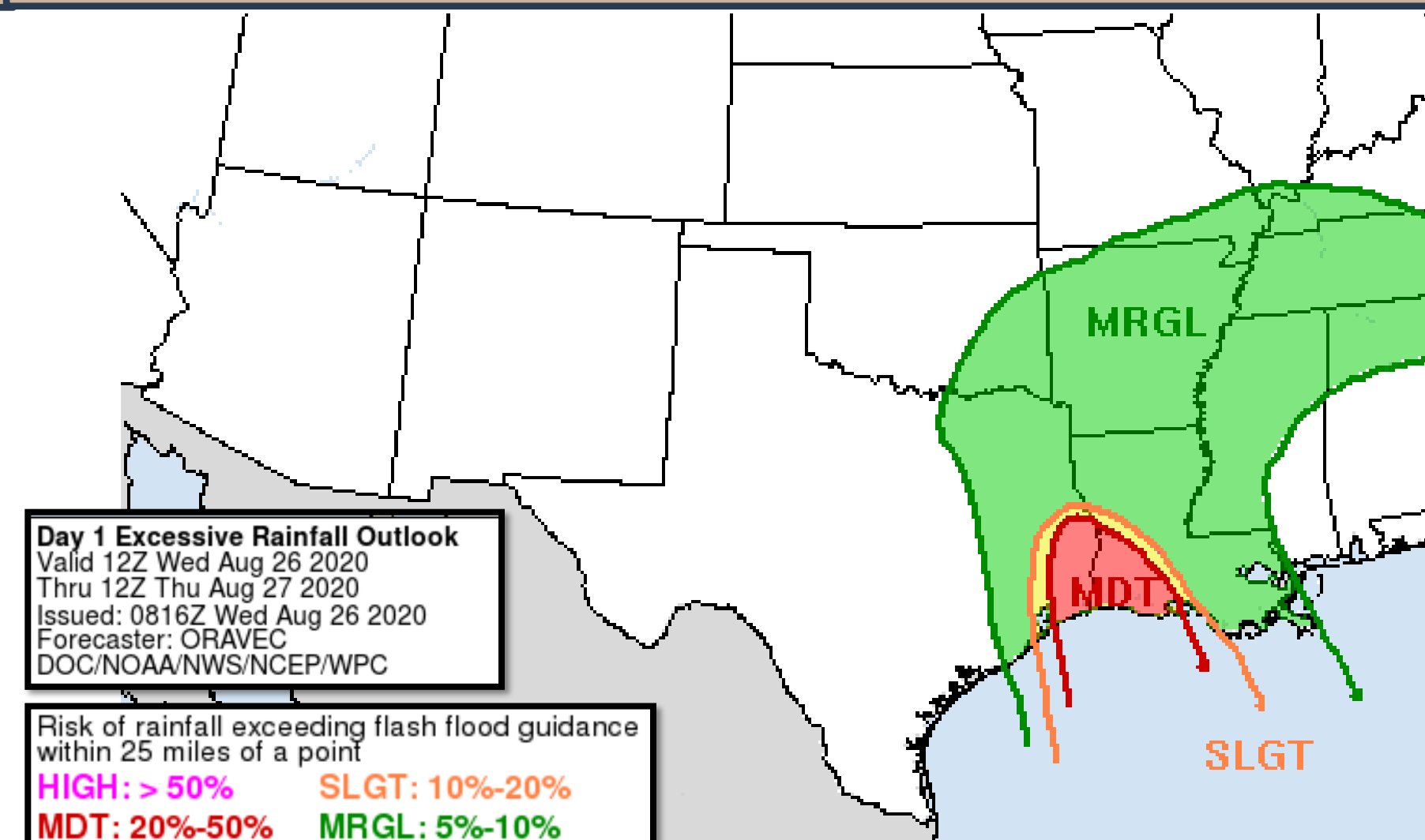
- Hurricane winds across SE TX/SW LA
- Storm surge across SE TX/S LA.
- Heavy rain/flash flooding
- Isolated tornadoes.

Heavy rain/flash flooding leading to river flooding across SE TX/LA.
Heavy surf/dangerous rip currents.

Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlook



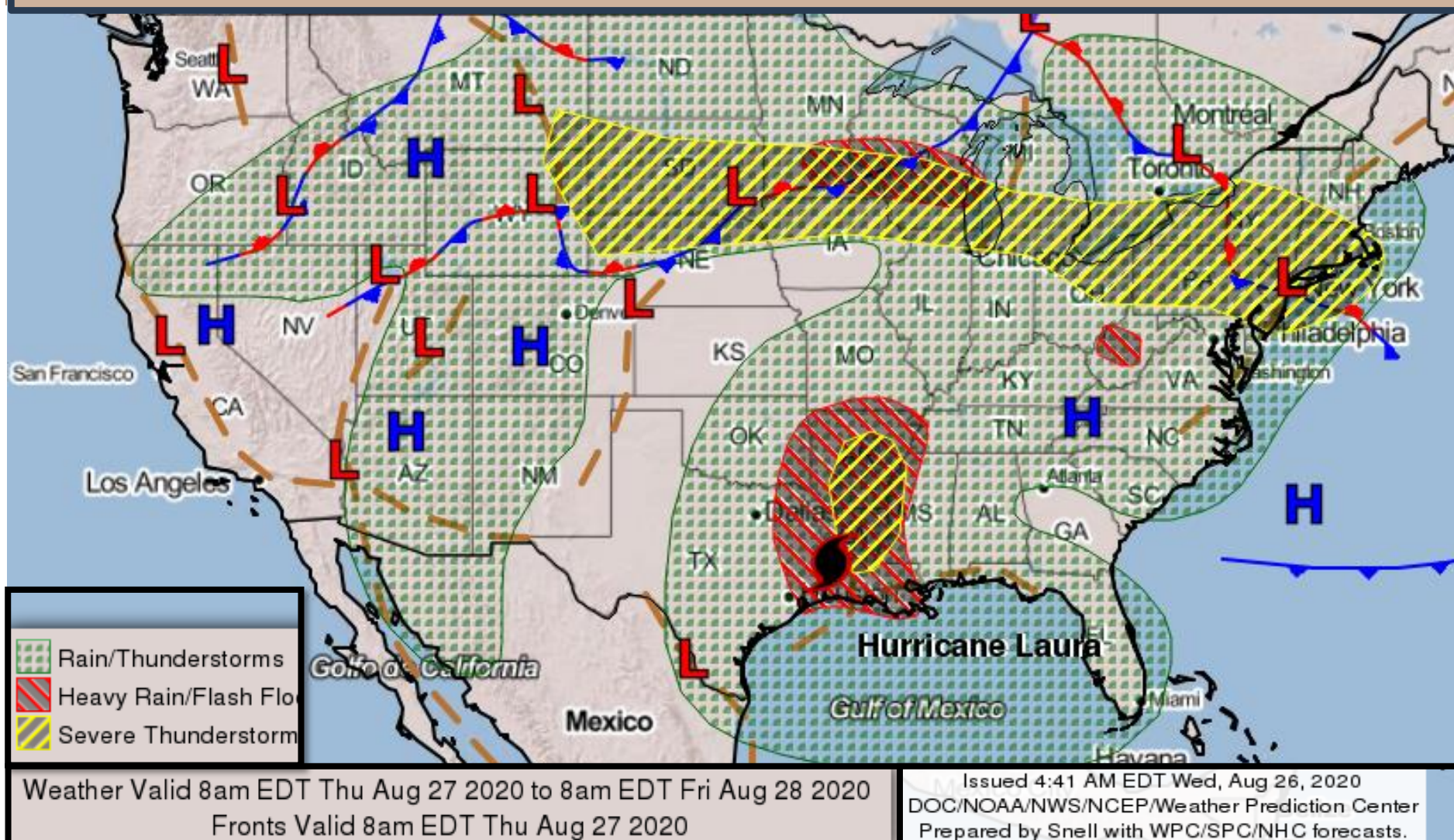
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Tomorrow's Weather

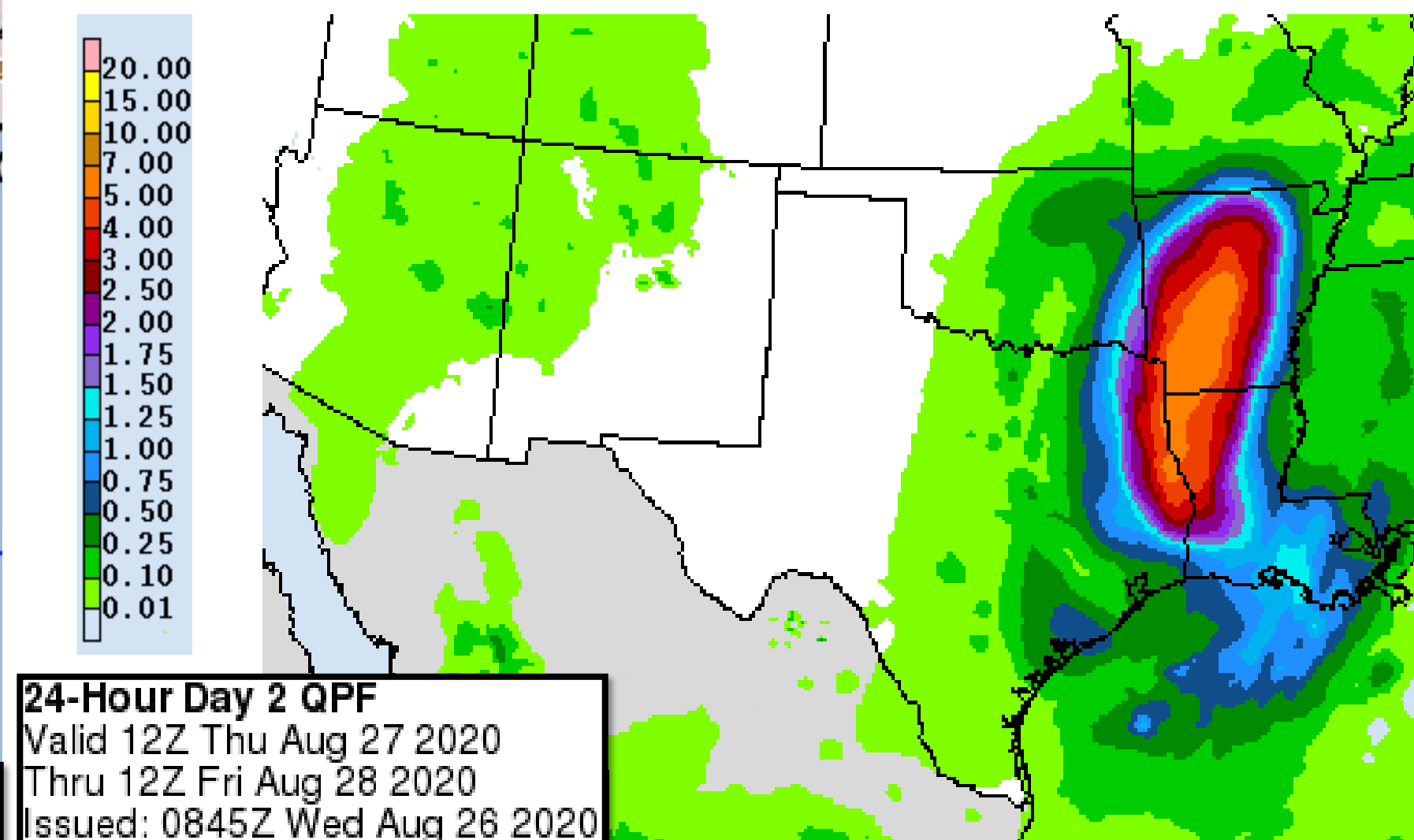


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Forecast Chart



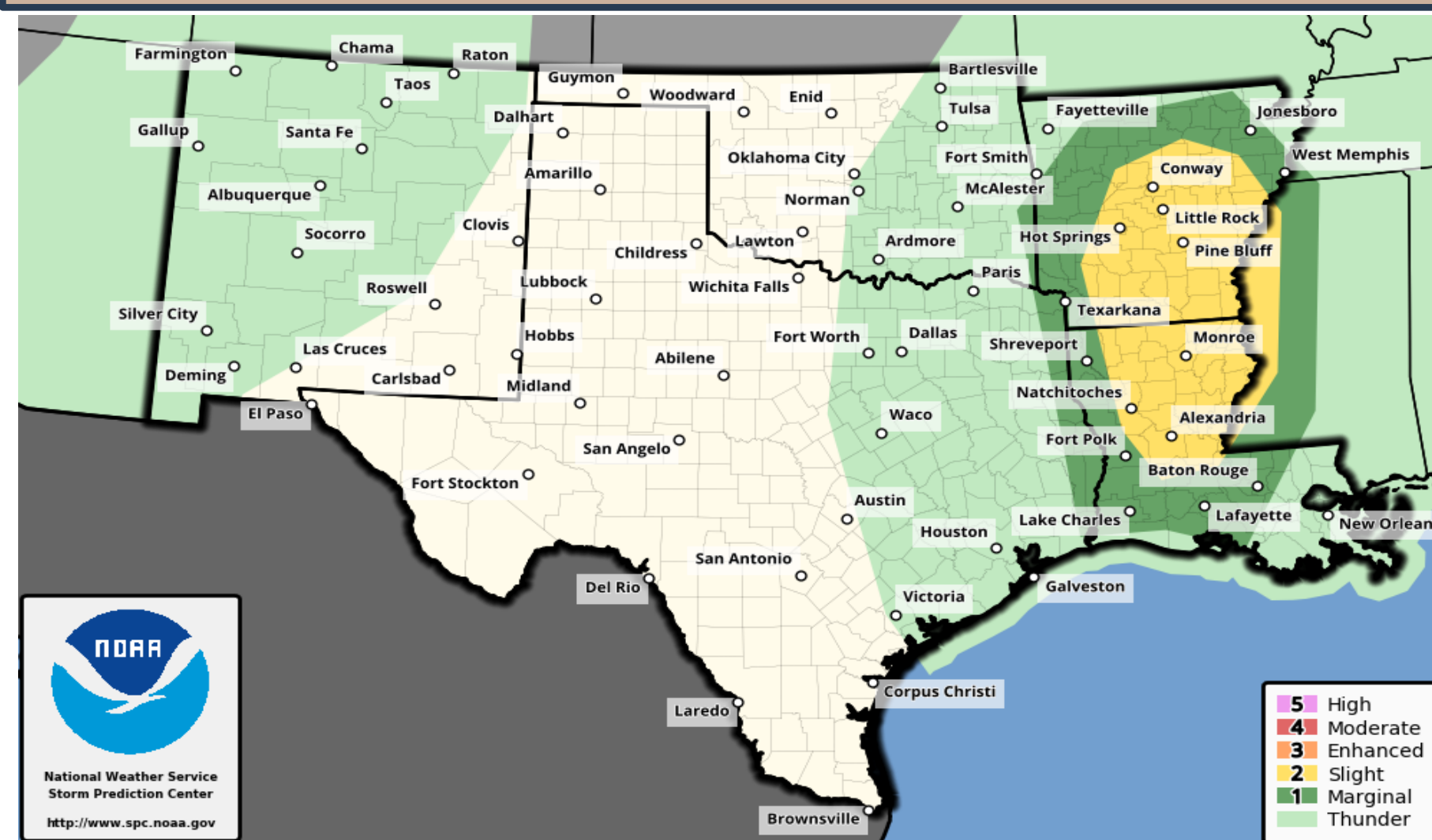
Forecast Rainfall



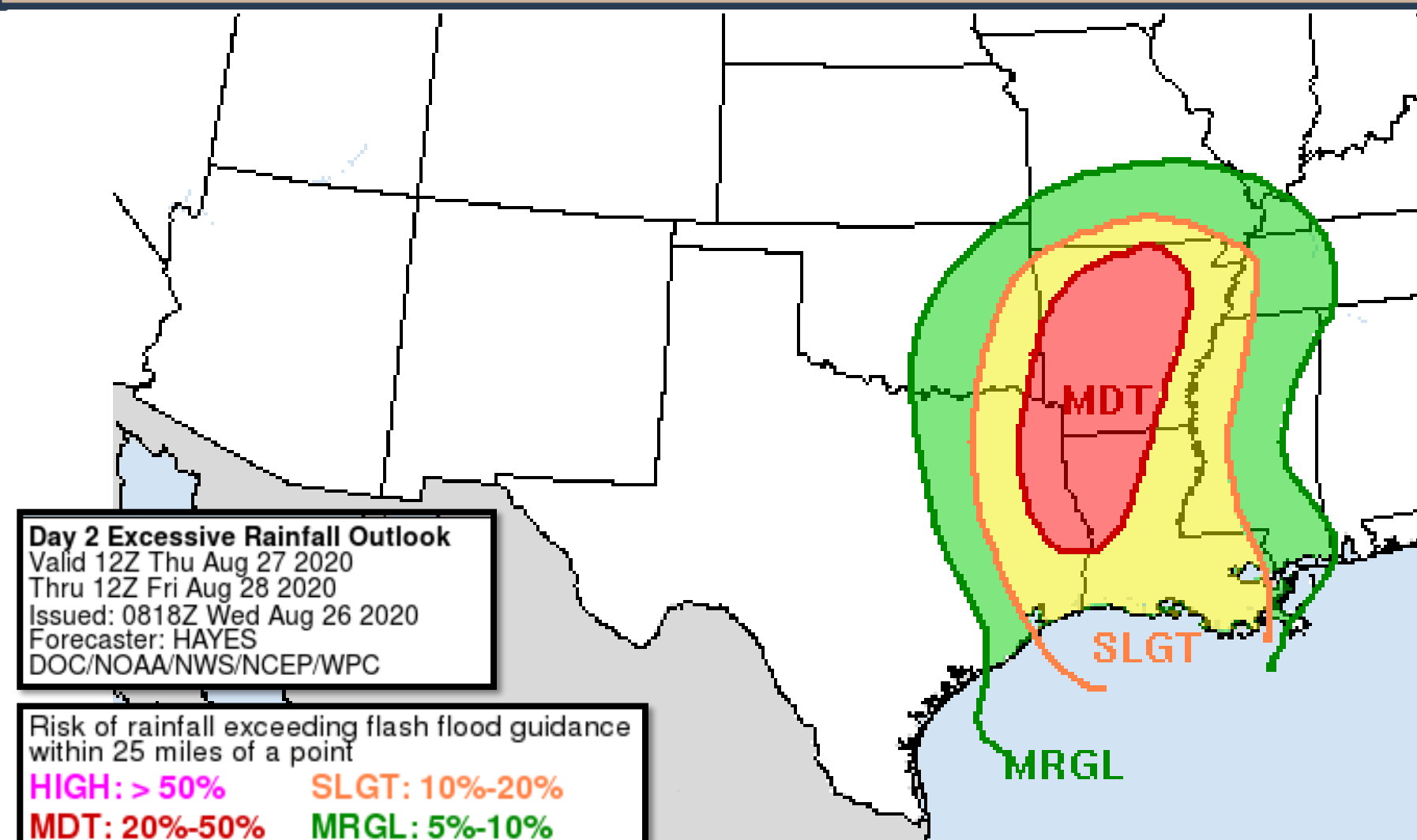
Severe thunderstorms with tornadoes and heavy rain/flash flooding possible over LA/E TX/AR.

Tropical storm/hurricane force winds from Laura are possible across E TX, LA and AR.

Severe Weather Outlook

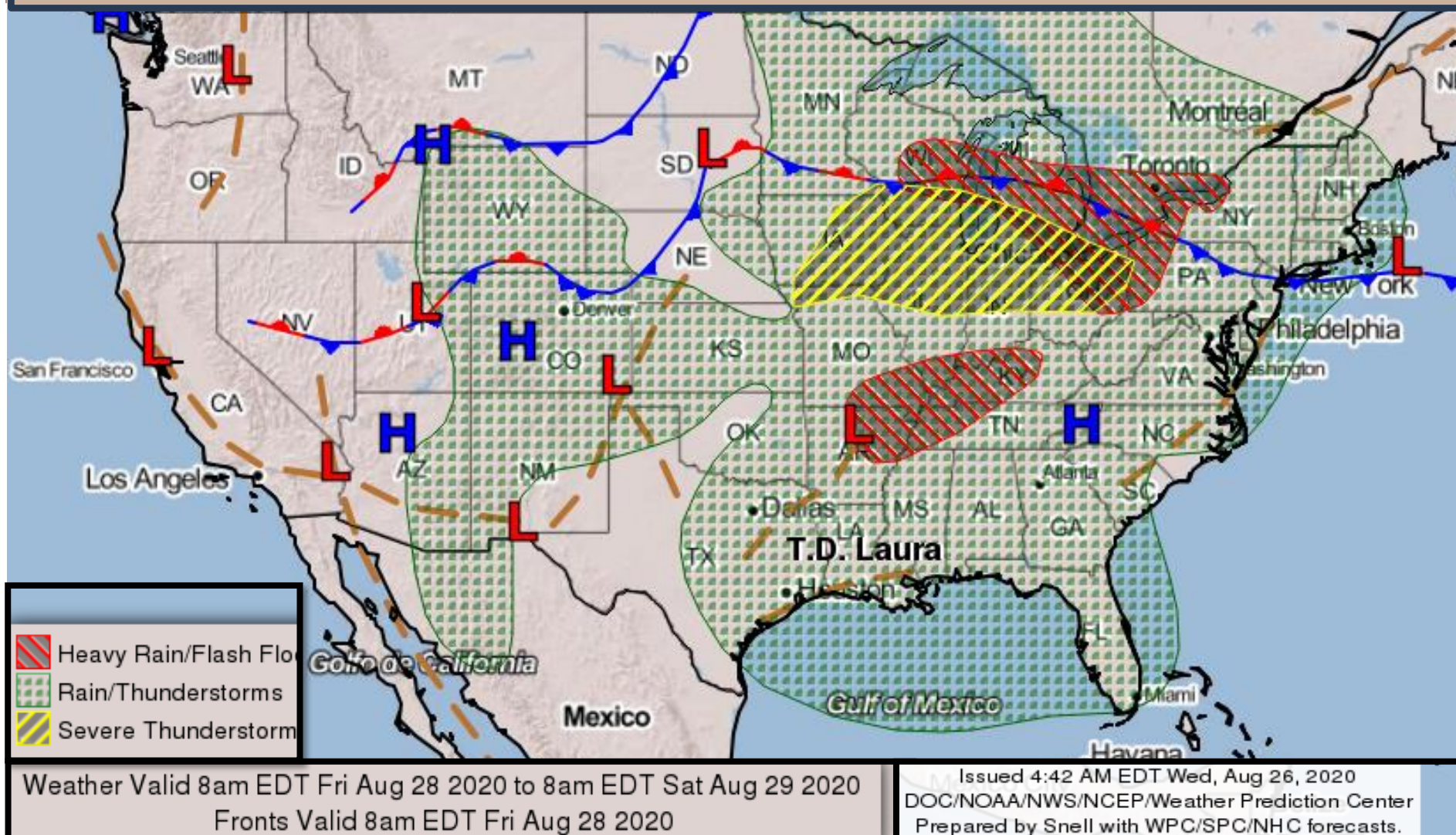


Excessive Rainfall Outlook

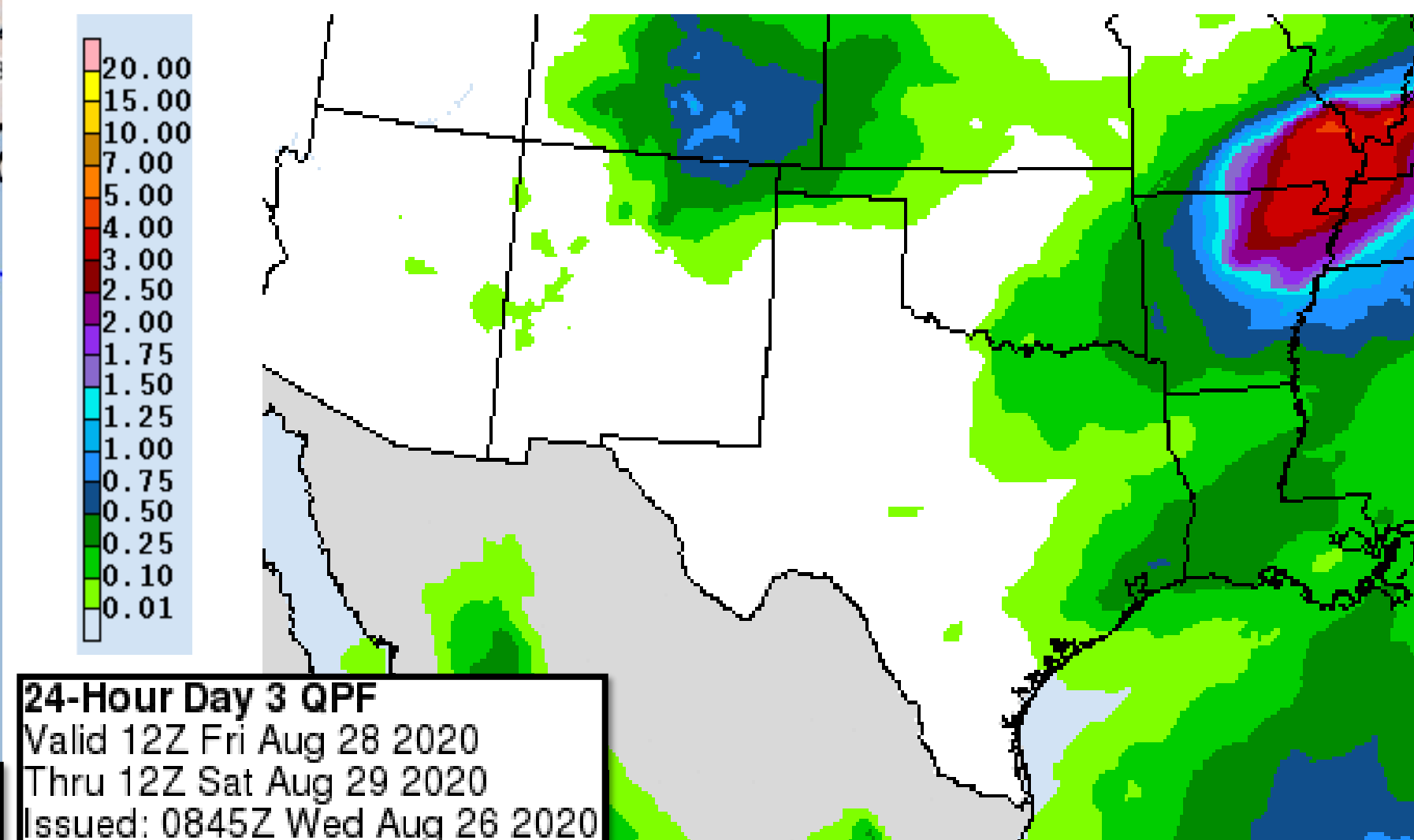


Friday's Weather

Forecast Chart



Forecast Rainfall

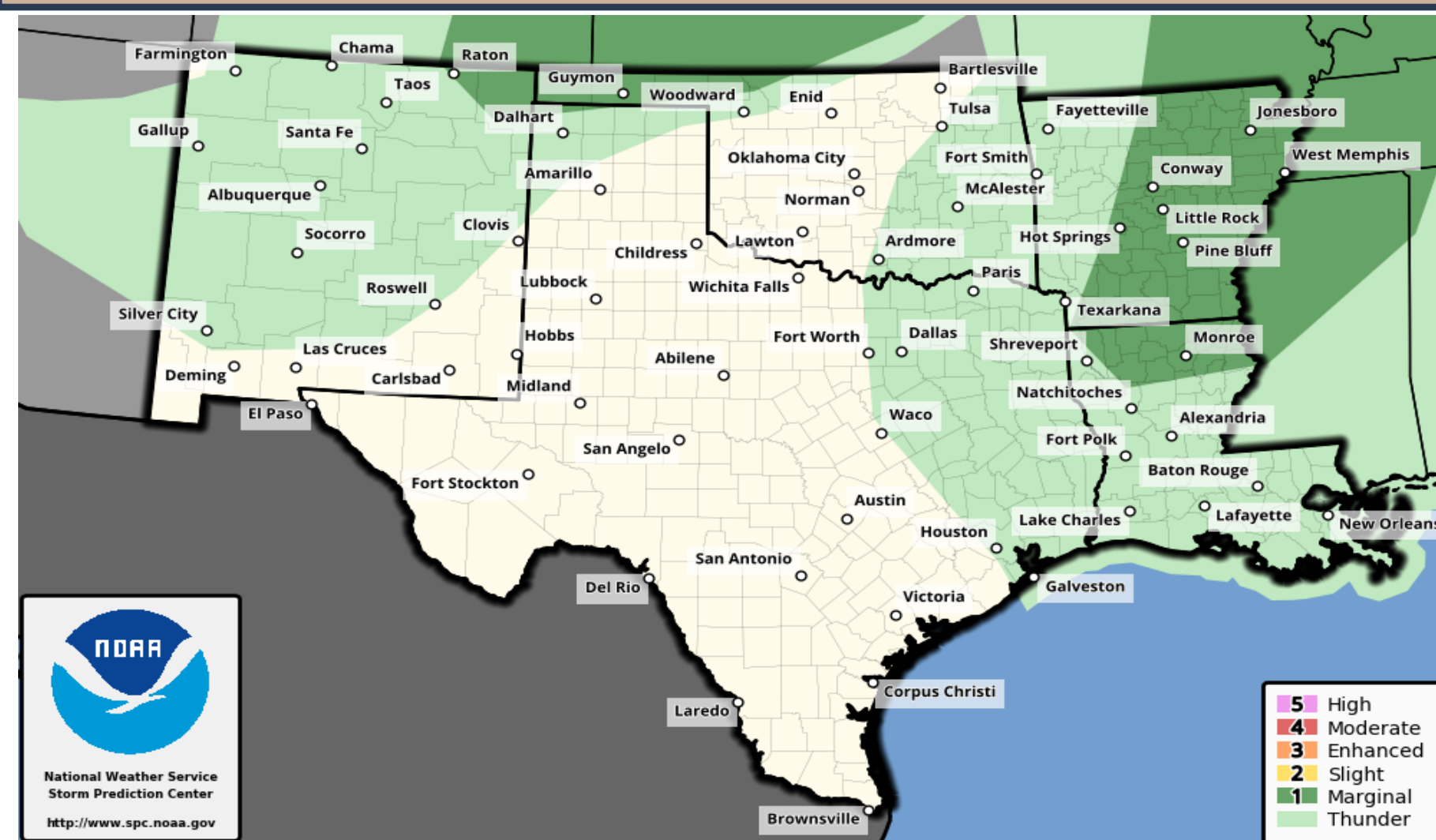


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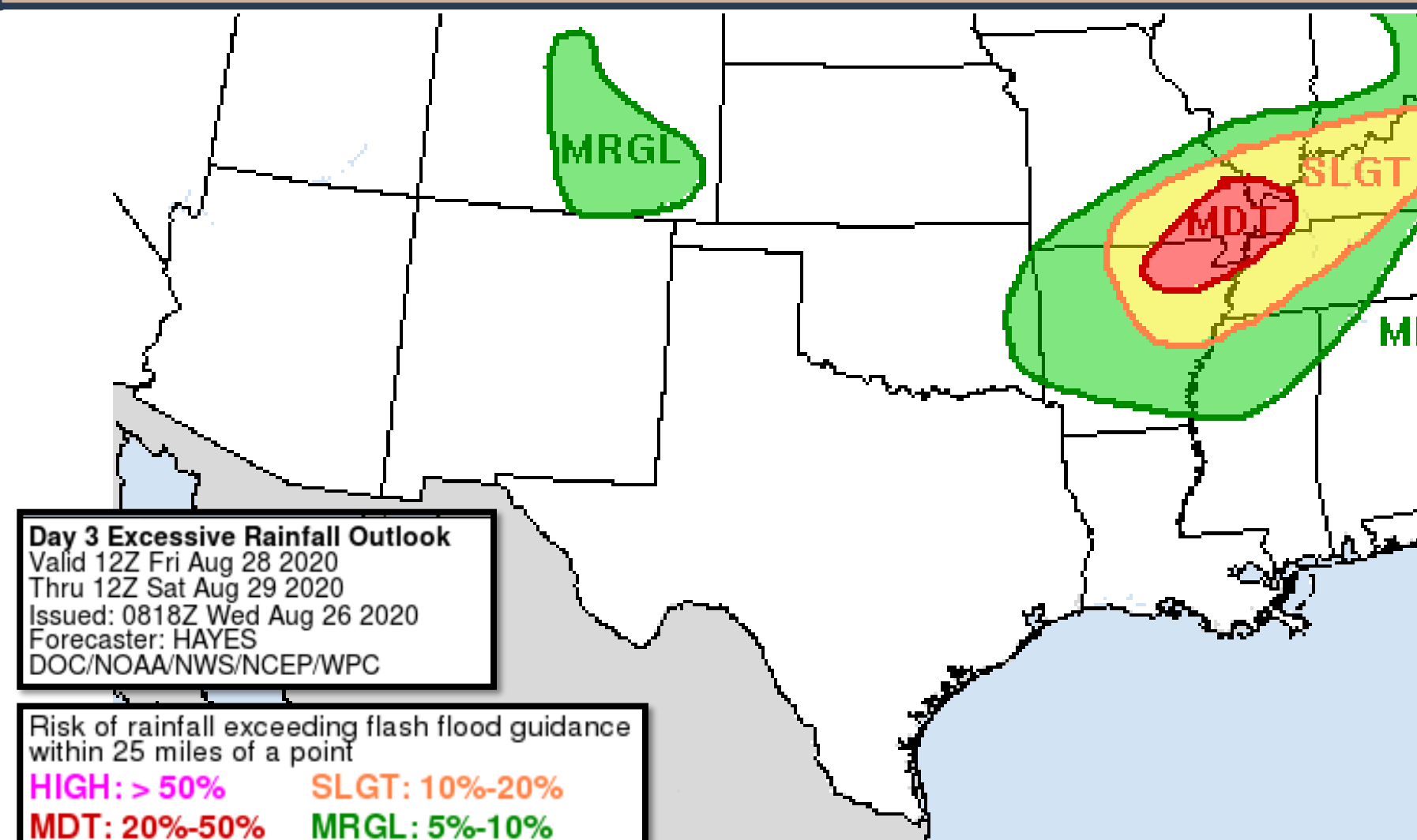
Heavy rain possible in AR from Laura.

Isolated heavy rain possible in LA from Laura.

Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlook



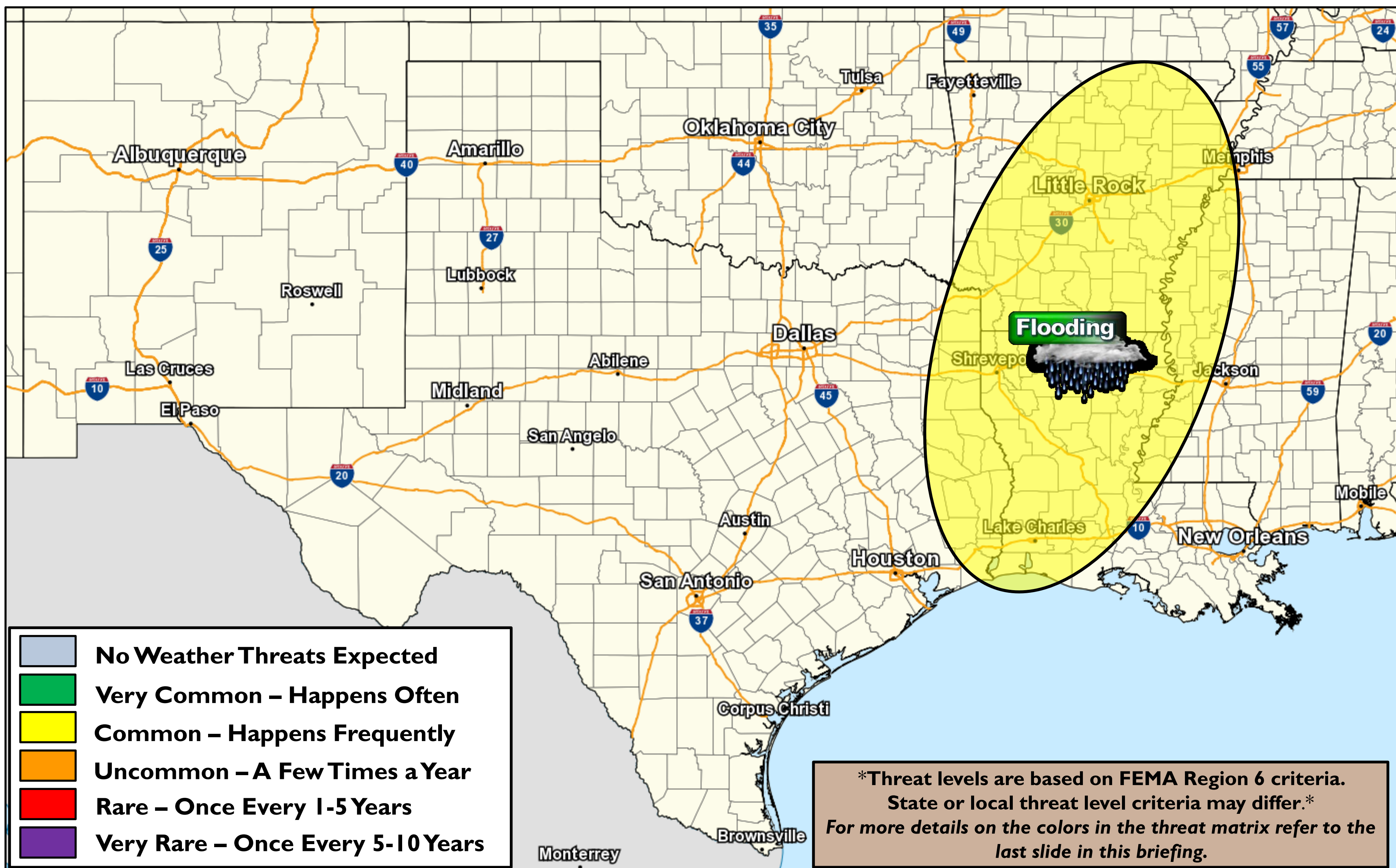
Days 4-5 Weather Hazards

Saturday - Sunday



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River flooding from Laura continues across E TX, LA and AR.

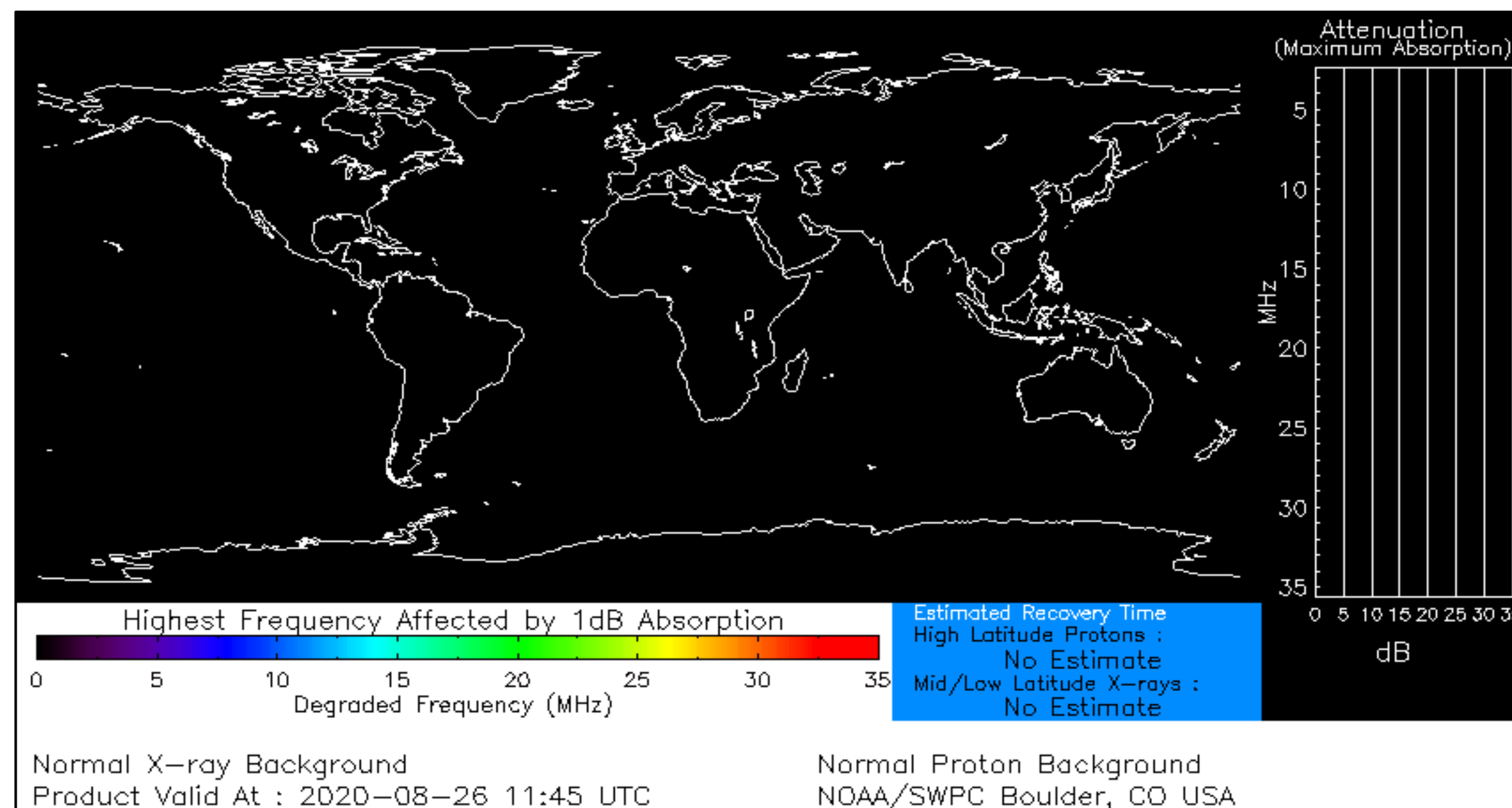


Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



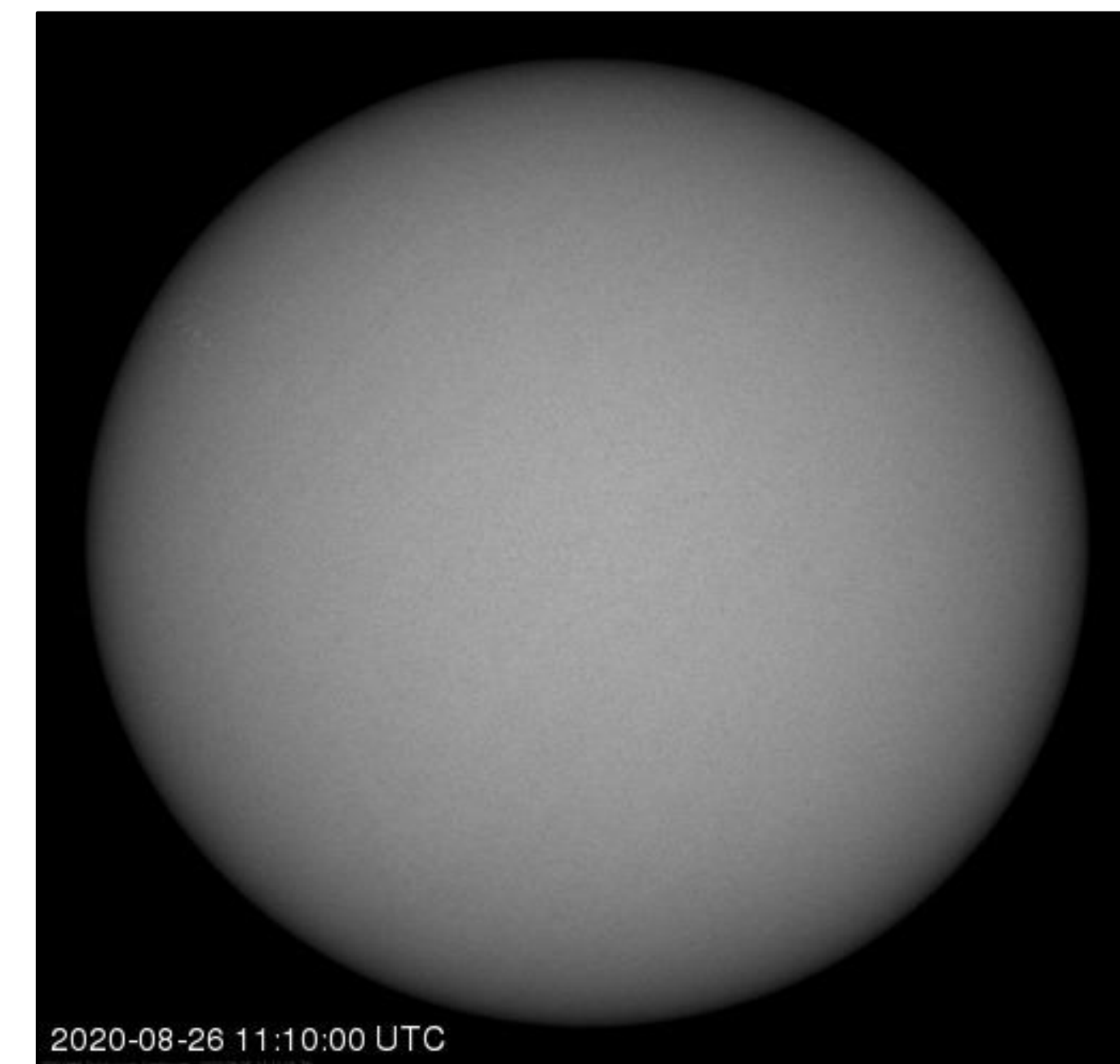
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	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet (Max Kp = 3)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)





For more information, please contact:

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747

E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov

Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh>



Weather “Threat” Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1” hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms

Criteria for the color codes in this briefing is to the left, please provide any feedback to

sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov